process 48 M/T of Pineapple fruits per day. As per the project report the annual installed capacity of the plant comes to 5760 M/T of Pineapple fruit and 554 M/T of Pineapple Juice Concentrate. The actual production of fruit and fruit products during the period from 1988-89 to 1991-92 is as under :

(In M/Tons)

Year	FRUIT PRODUCTS		
	Fruit (Pineapple)	Pineapple Juice Concentrate.	Pulp.
1988-89	641.54	36.05	—
1989-90	1023.60	62.82	—
1990-91	219.36	15.00	—
1991-92	650.00	38.52	24.00

The reasons for under utilisation of the capacity are as under :—

(i) Availability of fruits only for a period of 60/70 days during summer season and for a period of 30/40 days during winter (off) season;

(ii) Absence of captive/contract farming as well as staggering cultivation of pineapple fruits with hybrid variety resulted in non-availability of quality fruits during processing season leading to low input output ratio.

(iii) Financial constraints;

(iv) Lack of sustained marketing efforts for disposal of pineapple juice concentrate in the domestic/external market since commissioning of the project

In order to minimise the losses, the Corporation is taking steps to introduce captive/staggering cultivation of pineapple to ensure quality fruits availability for at least 200 days in a year. Efforts have been made to successfully produce pineapple pulp (a by-product of pineapple) which was hitherto being drained out with other affluents. In addition, the Corporation is proposing for R&D work for standardisation of existing product, development of new products and also to reduce/minimise transport cost and operational cost etc.

(c) There is no proposal at present to appoint consignment agent/distributors in view of existing actual production of pineapple juice concentrate.

Threat posed by Asbestos industry

1210. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious threat and risks posed by the Asbestos Industry, and if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken by the industry/Government in the matter;

(b) whether it is a fact that building industry poses a threat to workers and school children etc. as has been brought out in U.S.A. General Accounting Office reports GAO/RCED-92-57FS, January, 1992 and GAO/RCED-92-93 report of February, 1992; and

(c) whether any detailed studies have been conducted so far in the matter, and if so, the details thereof indicating any effective R and D work aimed at finding alternatives to asbestos ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Various studies on health hazardous nature of air borne asbestos fibre reveals that it is a carcinogenic material and hence there is work place problem. Due to this, manufacture of asbestos and asbestos based products have been included in the list of industries in

respect of which industrial licensing is compulsory. As a matter of policy the manufacture of asbestos-free products is being encouraged.

(b) In India, Asbestos Cement Sheets are usually used in building industry and these may not be considered to be health hazardous.

(c) Yes, Sir. Development Panel on Asbestos Products Industry submitted a report of the 'Committee on Health Hazard in Asbestos Products Industry' in 1985 and further submitted an interim report of expert group on substitution of asbestos fibre in various asbestos products in 1986. Since then number of units have come up for substitution of Asbestos Fibre by alternate fibres and the endeavour of the industry is in this direction.

CBI enquiry against CMD, Engineering Projects (India) Limited

1211. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any CBI enquiry was made against the present Chairman and Managing Director and Director Projects of Engineering Projects (India) Limited, a Government of India enterprise ;

(b) if so, the manner in which the cases were disposed off ; and

(c) whether Government propose to initiate investigation of the assets of certain General Managers both at the company's head office and at regional office at Calcutta ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enquiries were closed by CBI after making investigation.

(c) The General Managers of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. are holding below Board level post and hence are not under the administrative control of the Ministry.

Promotion Policy in Scooters India Limited

1212. SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any promotion policy in the Scooters India Limited ; if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether during the years 1982—90, there had been no promotions and in 1991 a number of promotions were made without merit ;

(c) whether the promotees of the year 1991 have been confirmed ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when they are likely to be confirmed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir. The main features of the promotion policy are : promotion shall not be claimed as a matter of right by any employee ; the appointing authority shall determine the number of sanctioned vacancies to be filled during an year depending upon the requirement and work-load as well as to reward performance ; and the chief executive shall determine the source or sources of recruitment against these vacancies from time to time.

(b) No, Sir. The position regarding promotions given as per the promotion policy to the Officers/Staff/Workmen during 1982—January 1991 is as under :

Year	Officers	Staff	Workmen	Total
Jan. 1982	—	—	13	13
July 1982	40	65	—	105
Jan. 1983	—	—	255	255
Jan. 1991	18	55	86	159
TOTAL				532